

prepared for the fatal hour. Through glasses, the eyes of the Earth peered at Mars. When the zero hour approached, and the final switch was thrown, and the rays were directed upon Mars, the general contour of Mars remained unchanged; but the watchers through the glasses finally distinctly saw a gaping fissure formed on the surface of the planet. This was the first attack. The Earth was alive with excitement. What would Mars do? Would she retaliate? The question was not long left unanswered. Three days after the initial attack, the Earth found that what remained of the continent of Africa was a smouldering, seething crater of volcanic ash. Mars indeed, had retaliated, and with a ray.

"Pandemonium followed. What was to be done? Mars must be dealt with. Once more Karl Strovback comes to the front. He spent a few anxious days in his laboratory, then announced that he would completely destroy Mars with a reinforced ray. The Earth waited. The appointed hour came. Once more the eyes of the Earth were focused on Mars. Once more the last lever was thrown, and through the glasses, Mars was seen to grow red. There was a bright flash, a puff of smoke, and Mars had vanished from existence. Then came the rain so greatly needed by the Earth. The Earth rejoiced. Television sets, the world over became accustomed to Karl's appearance. He was famous.

"Then came the break. Karl had not heard from Helen recently; and, even though he had tried to gain information regarding her from the headquarters at the Cook's Interplanet-eismal Travel Office, there was no word as to where she was. Finally, word came to Karl that she and her party had started for Mars the day before its disintegration, and no word had been heard from them since. Frantically Karl tried to ascertain the validity of this report. It finally proved all too true.

"Suddenly it dawned on Karl what he had done. With his great invention he had killed his beloved. Killed the girl he loved with his own hands. The thought almost paralyzed him. No longer did he wish to live. There was no object